

Message Text

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INFO RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY 0000

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: GENEVA 6125 DTD JUL 22, 1977

FOL REPEAT GENEVA 6125 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL OECD CAPS
BUENOS AIRES DTD 22 JUL.

QUOTE

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GENEVA 6125

PASS AGRICULTURE, PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY
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USOECN USMTN USEEC

REF: A. GENEVA 5999, B. GENEVA 6000

1. SUMMARY: GROUP AGRICULTURE RECESSED JULY 20 UNTIL
JULY 27 WITHOUT AGREEMENT ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM. THROUGH-
OUT TWO PLENARIES AND ONE RESTRICTED SESSION, MAJOR OB-

STACLES TO AN AGREEMENT CONTINUED TO BE (1) DEMAND BY LDCS THAT SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT BE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT ON FUTURE WORK PROGRAM; AND (2) INSISTENCE BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES (JAPAN IN PARTICULAR) ON DELAY OF AT LEAST ONE WEEK TO HAVE THE US PROPOSAL EXAMINED IN CAPITALS. THE GROUP RECESSED FOR A WEEK TO PERMIT ALL COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS. LDCS INDICATED THAT THEY WILL HAVE THEIR OWN PROPOSAL BY THAT TIME (OR SOONER) TO COVER S&D QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. GROUP AGRICULTURE CONTINUED JULY 20 TO DISCUSS THE US PROPOSAL (REF A) FOR A REQUEST/OFFER PROCEDURE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD VERY FEW DIFFICULTIES WITH US PROPOSAL AND WERE FOR THE MOST PART HELPFUL. AUSTRALIA (FOGARTY), NEW ZEALAND (MCPhail), AND CANADA (GREY), ALL INDICATED THEY COULD SUPPORT PROCEDURES PROPOSED BY THE US, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DETAILS COULD BE IRONED OUT WITHOUT HOLDING UP PROGRESS. CANADA STATED HOWEVER THAT ITS AGREEMENT TO NOV 1 SUBMISSION OF REQUESTS WAS CONDITIONAL ON PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF A TARIFF PLAN.

3. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE REQUEST EXERCISE, COUNTRIES SHOULD SUBMIT, AS IN THE KENNEDY ROUND, LISTS OF THOSE PRODUCTS EACH CONSIDERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURAL. MOST COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, QUESTIONED THE RIGIDITY OF THE NOV 1 DEADLINE AND SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE THAT THE DATE BE MORE OF A "BEST EFFORTS" TARGET.

4. EC (PIZZUTI) WAS HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY DURING THE RESTRICTED SESSION, IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING SCOPE OF PROPOSAL (I.E. COVERAGE OF PRODUCTS IN SUBGROUPS.). EC EXPLAINED THAT EC WOULD NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT ANY REQUESTS ON MEASURES EVEN IF THEY INVOLVE ITEMS IN PRODUCT SUBGROUPS. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD PREVENT THINGS FROM FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS.

5. LDCS CAUSED MAJOR DIFFICULTY TO RAPID ACCEPTANCE OF US PROPOSAL BY (1) EXPRESSING "SURPRISE" AT THE SUDDENNESS OF THE PROPOSAL, AND INDICATING THEIR INABILITY TO RESPOND ON SHORT NOTICE, AND (2) DEMANDING THAT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIATED TREATMENT BE INCORPORATED INTO THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAM OF AGRICULTURE. ARGENTINA (MARTINEZ) PLAYED ANTAGONISTIC AND DISRUPTIVE ROLE CONTINUALLY INTERVENING TO REJECT ALL NON-SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON WAYS TO INCORPORATE S&D. HE TWICE INDICATED THAT A MEETING OF THE TNC MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO JUDGE "WHETHER

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION ON S&D WERE BEING UPHELD". ARGENTINA RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM OTHER LDCS (E.G., MEXICO, ADEANS, CACM), ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD BE FAR LESS OBSTRUCTIVE WERE IT NOT FOR ARGENTINA. BRAZIL, YUGOSLAVIA, AND INDIA TOOK A MORE MODERATE LINE INDICATING NEED TO MOVE FORWARD BUT EXPRESSING SPECIFIC CONCERNS ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE REQUEST PROPOSAL.

6. POINTS RAISED BY LDCS INCLUDED: (1) QUESTION OF WHETHER PLURLIATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PERMITTED; (2) TRANSPARENCY OF REQUESTS AND OFFERS; (3) FLEXIBILITY FOR LDCS IN MEETING THE TIMETABLE; (4) PRINCIPLE OF "NON-RECIPROCITY"; (5) CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING REQUESTS; (6) PRIORITY IN SUBSTANCE AND SCOPE OF PRODUCTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST TO LDCS; AND (7) AGREEMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE TERMINATED UNTIL THE REQUESTS OF LDCS WERE SATISFIED. SEVERAL LDCS OBSERVED THAT THE US PROPOSAL WOULD ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE DCS ONLY AND THAT A SECTION TO COVER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS SHOULD BE ADDED. THIS THEY WOULD PREPARE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GROUP MEMBERS HOPEFULLY PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING JULY 27.

7. U.S. (STARKEY) ATTEMPTED TO FIND WAY OUT FOR LDCS BY PROPOSING FOLLING LANGUAGE BE INCORPORATED INTO THE PROPOSAL: BEGIN TEXT: THE GROUP TOOK NOTE OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO ELABORATION OF S&D. THE GROUP AGREED THAT INTENSIVE EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE COMING MONTHS TO ELABORATE S&D IN ALL AREAS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WHERE FEASIBLE AND APPROPRIATE. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT PRIORITY ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO REQUESTS SUBMITTED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WILL, IF REQUESTED, AGREE TO PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THESE REQUESTS WITH A VIEW TO FULFILLING THE COMMITMENTS OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END TEXT. THIS WAS REJECTED BY ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL WHO SAID PROCEDURES FOR LDCS MUST BE MORE PRECISE.

8. JAPAN (UKAWA) WAS VIRTUALLY SILENT THROUGHOUT MEETING EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT THEY HAD CABLED THE US PROPOSAL TO TOKYO AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT RECEIVE A REPLY FOR AT LEAST TEN DAYS. WHEN, AFTER MUCH DEBATE, THE GROUP AGREED THAT IT SHOULD RECONVENE ON JULY 27, JAPAN SAID THEY COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO INDICATE THEIR POSITION THEN.
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9. RESTRICTED MEETING OF KEY DC AND LDC COUNTRIES WILL PROBABLY BE SCHEDULED FOR JULY 25 OR 26 TO TRY WORKING OUT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXT COVERING LDC CONCERNS. THE MORE MODERATE LDCS ARE FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE. ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO BE THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY. MAJORITY OF THE LDCS DO NOT SUPPORT ARGENTINA'S EXTREME STATEMENTS AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR. HOWEVER THUS FAR THE LDCS, PARTICULARLY THE LATIN AMERICANS, HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO LEAVE ARGENTINA ISOLATED AND IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER MODERATES WILL PREVAIL. CULBERT

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